CLAIMS

1.   A method of restoring a system, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a new disk drive for an identified customer computer system;

retrieving an extended parts list for the customer computer system;

providing a restore program on the new disk drive; and

storing the extended parts list on the disk drive for use by the restore program in restoring the computer system.

2.   The method of claim 1 and further comprising shipping the new disk drive to the customer such that upon installation, the computer system is restored to the same state it was in when it originally left the factory.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the restore program is stored on the new disk drive in a host protected area of the disk drive.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the restore program is an image of a system recovery compact disk program.

5.   The method of claim 1 and further comprising checking a hard disk drive inventory for a desired new disk drive.

6.   A system that creates a replacement disk drive for a computer, the system comprising:

a replacement fulfillment processor that receives a replacement order, obtains an extended parts list corresponding to the computer as originally shipped from a factory, and a recovery program; and

a replacement hard drive creator that obtains a suitable disk drive and stores the recovery program and the extended parts list onto the suitable disk drive.

7.   The system of claim 6 wherein the recovery program and the extended parts list are stored in a host protected are of the disk drive.

8.   A system for creating a hard disk drive for restoring a computer, the system comprising:

    means for receiving a request for a new disk drive for an identified customer computer system;

    means for obtaining an extended parts list for the customer computer system;

    means for providing a restore program on the new disk drive; and

    means for storing the extended parts list on the disk drive for use by the restore program in restoring the computer.

9.   A method of restoring a computer system, the method comprising:

    installing a replacement hard disk drive into the computer system;

    powering up the system;

    executing a restore script;

    using an extended parts list on the replacement hard disk drive to select operating system drivers to creating a restored operating system; and

    rebooting into the newly restored operating system.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the restore script is stored on the hard disk drive in a host protected area.

11.   The method of claim 10 wherein after the operating system is restored and prior to rebooting into the newly restored operating system, a max hard drive address is set to ensure rebooting into the newly restored operating system.

12.   The method of claim 9 wherein the replacement hard drive comprises operating system code and application code, and wherein the restore script uses such code in conjunction with the extended parts list to restore the computer system to the state it was in when it was originally manufactured.

13.   A method of restoring a computer system, upon installation of a replacement hard disk drive into the computer system and powering up the system, the method comprising:

executing a restore script;

using an extended parts list on the replacement hard disk drive to select operating system drivers to creating a restored operating system; and

rebooting into the newly restored operating system.

14.   A computer readable medium having instructions for causing one or more computers to perform a method of restoring a system, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a new disk drive for an identified customer computer system;

retrieving an extended parts list for the customer computer system;

providing a restore program on the new disk drive; and

storing the extended parts list on the disk drive for use by the restore program in restoring the computer system.

15.   The computer readable medium of claim 14 wherein the restore program and extended parts list is stored on the hard disk drive in a host protected area.

16.   The computer readable medium of claim 14 wherein the new disk drive also comprises operating system and application software for installing on the computer system consistent with the extended parts list.